

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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A/D-1422/RMS

January 26, 2010

Memorandum for the Record

FROM: A/Procurement Officer

SUBJECT: Source Selection Statement under Request for Proposals (RFP)
NND09304867, Advanced Command Destruct System (ACDS)

This memorandum documents the basis for my decision as Source Selection Authority (SSA) to select WV Communications, Inc. of Newbury Park, CA for contract award under the subject solicitation.

A. Procurement History Narrative

The procurement was solicited and evaluated under the provisions of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and NASA FAR Supplement Part 15, Contracting by Negotiations. An Evaluation Plan, dated November 11, 2009, identified guidance utilized by the Government's evaluation team in performing their assessment of each proposal. The RFP was issued on September 30, 2009. It included the following salient evaluation aspects:

- Three evaluation factors: mission suitability, past performance and price.
- Mission suitability scored on a 1000 point scale; other two factors not scored.
- Four sub-factors of mission suitability:
 - Understanding the Requirements, worth 300 points
 - Reliability/ Supportability/ Maintainability/Serviceability, worth 300 points
 - System Safety, worth 300 points, and
 - Integration and Interoperability, worth 100 points
- Mission suitability adjectival ratings characterizing the Offeror's proposal, including excellent, very good, good, etc.
- Government confidence levels for past performance, including very high, high, moderate, etc.
- Determination whether proposed prices are fair and reasonable.

- Mission suitability factor is more important than past performance; price is least important.
- Selection decision based on an integrated assessment of all three factors to ensure the best overall value to the Government.

Proposals were received from the following two Offerors on November 13, 2009:

System Planning Corporation (SPC), Arlington, VA
WV Communications, Inc. of Newbury Park, CA

No late proposals were received.

B. Findings Narrative

The Government evaluation team's findings are summarized in an Evaluation Report dated January 15, 2010. I am confident that those results form a solid basis upon which I may make this selection decision. In performing their initial assessment, prior to generating that report, the team identified a number of findings relative to the SPC proposal that were determined of sufficient importance to warrant SPC's exclusion from further consideration, pursuant to NASA FAR Supplement 1815.305-70. Findings included the following:

1. Failure to sufficiently address features of their system to ensure that its capability meets the EFTS implementation.
2. Insufficient information on use of proposed L-3 Communication components and requirement for other L-3 developed external devices to ensure successful operation.
3. Inadequate demonstration of knowledge of critical timing issues and other EFTS attributes.
4. Confusing and contradictory description of the SPC approach to system implementation, software development and Field Programmable Gate Array utilization.
5. A proposed price of \$3,899,000 which is three times the Government estimate.

By letter dated December 9, 2009, SPC was informed that their proposal was determined to be unacceptable and eliminated from further consideration. As a result of discontinuing Government initial evaluation, the team did not assign the SPC proposal a mission suitability adjectival rating or score. Additionally, no findings (strengths or weaknesses) or Government confidence levels were given to SPC's past performance. They acknowledged receipt of the notice and were provided a pre-award debriefing pursuant to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 15.505 on January 6, 2010. No protest to the Agency or the General Accountability Office was received during the 10-day period prescribed by FAR 33.103.

The proposal from WV was found to have the following four significant strengths:

1. Demonstrated understanding of the requirements via an augmented cross reference matrix describing how they plan to meet their approach.
2. Use of a network topology that simplifies system connection and reconnection.

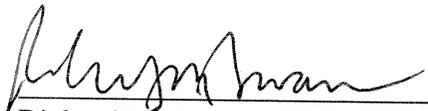
3. Use of Ethernet equipment that is commercially available and supportable for the foreseeable future.
4. Use of several integrated diagnostic tools to aid component failure analysis and recovery.

Additionally, the WV proposal had five regular strengths, six weaknesses and no significant weaknesses. These findings were distributed among the four evaluation subfactors. The overall mission suitability characterization is Very Good, with a point score of 835 (out of a possible 1000). The WV proposed amount is \$1,934,640. While this is higher than the Government's estimate, technical advantages identified in the significant strengths of the WV proposal justify accepting the proposed amount. Relative to WV's past performance, there were no specific strengths or weaknesses found and the Government confidence level is considered Moderate.

C. Source Selection Decision

Using the findings presented by the team in the Evaluation Report, and not taking any exceptions to the results presented, I reaffirm my concurrence in the exclusion of the SPC proposal from this procurement. I also find that the one remaining proposal, from WV Communications, Inc., forms a solid basis for their selection and award. They have a very good mission suitability rating, a moderate Government confidence level in past performance, and a reasonable price.

Based upon the findings presented, and my conclusions given above, I determine that the proposal received from WV to be the best overall value to the Government. It is the combination of these findings, and not any single evaluation conclusion, that forms the basis for my decision. Therefore, I select WV Communications, Inc. for an award of a contract resulting from this solicitation without final revisions being requested.


Richard M. Swanson
Source Selection Authority

1-26-10
Date